

MASTER OF
KUNG FU™

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JAN
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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

SHANG-CHI'S DEADLIEST
FOES RETURN AS PAWNS
IN THE HANDS OF MARVEL'S
MASTER OF MACABRE
VILLAINY-- DR. DOOM!



**DOOM
GAME!**

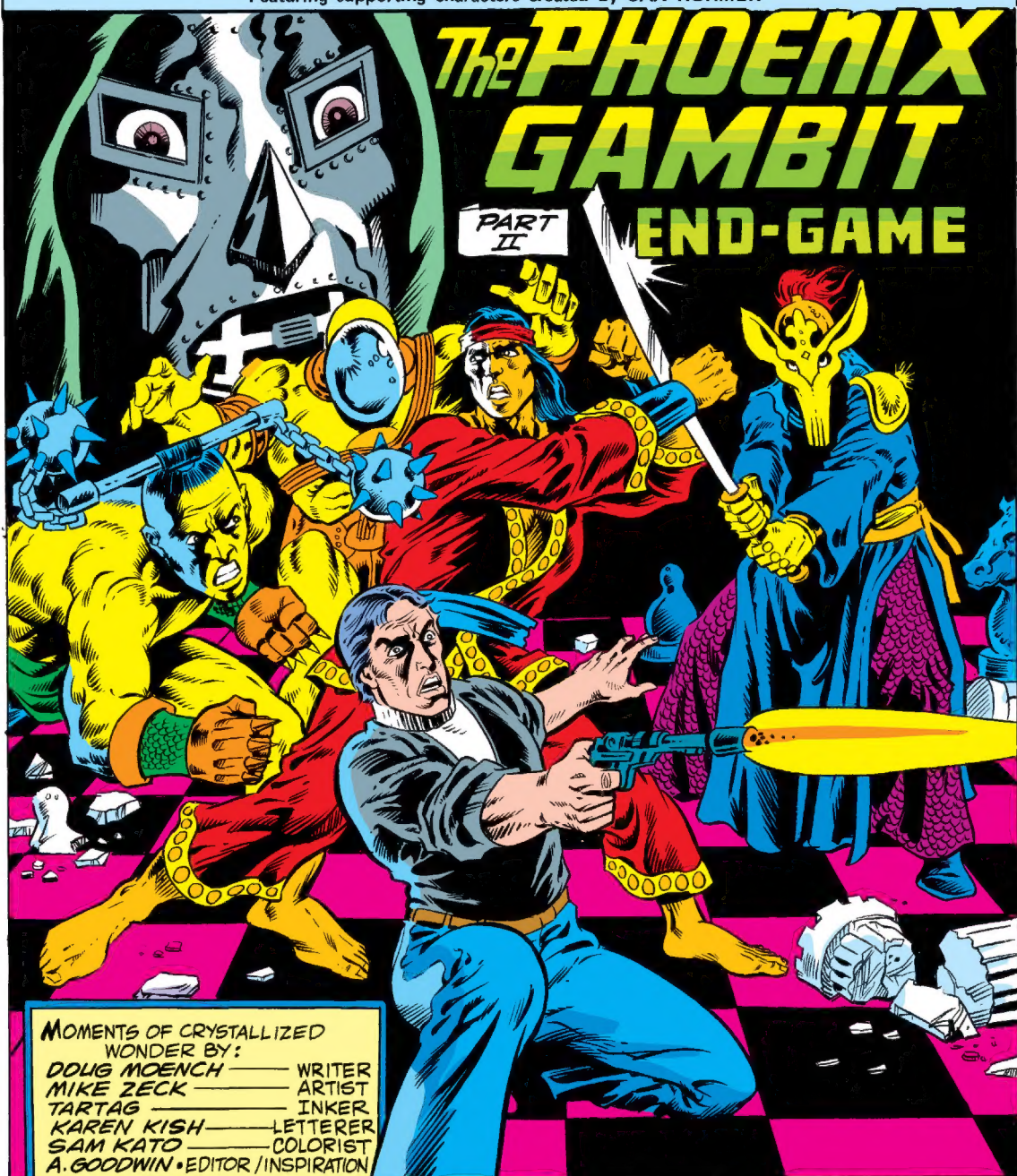
"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

The **PHOENIX** **GAMBIT** END-GAME

PART
II



MOMENTS OF CRYSTALLIZED
WONDER BY:

DOUG MOENCH	WRITER
MIKE ZECK	ARTIST
TARTAG	INKER
KAREN KISH	LETTERER
SAM KATO	COLORIST
A. GOODWIN	EDITOR / INSPIRATION

"FRAGMENTS OF RECENT TIME ARE MISSING. I HAVE REACHED OUT TO GRASP THEM, BUT ALWAYS THEY FADE ... MELTING INTO VISIONS OF AFRICA UNDER ICE... A BLACK WOMAN IN FURS,



"WATCHING AS THE LAST BEASTS DIE..."

"WE FLY, NOW, TO... SOMEWHERE. I DO NOT REMEMBER WHY LEIKO HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND ... OR EVEN IF IT WAS AT MY INSISTENCE..."



"...AS RESTON HAS TOLD ME.

WE'LL REACH LATVERIA IN ANOTHER HOUR OR SO, CHI.



WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO SLEEP OFF SOME MORE OF THAT DRUG IN YOUR SYSTEM?

"YES... I WILL SLEEP, BUT ALREADY I CAN SENSE THAT IT WILL BE FITFUL.



"AND FILLED WITH DREAMS: MY FATHER IS SOMEHOW ALIVE AND SHOULD BE TRYING TO KILL ME, BUT..."

A NEW SPRINGTIME, MY SON,



A TIME OF REVIVIFICATION.

SEE HOW THE SNOW MELTS? THE GLACIER HAS PASSED ON ITS WAY TO THE EQUATOR, AND CHINA IS ONCE AGAIN FAVORED WITH THE BUDDING OF NEW LIFE.

"WE STAND ON A RISE OVERLOOKING ECHOES OF EARLIER DREAMS: A CLIFF OVERLOOKING DYING ANIMALS, A MOUNTAIN OVER-LOOKING THE MELTING POLAR ICECAP..."



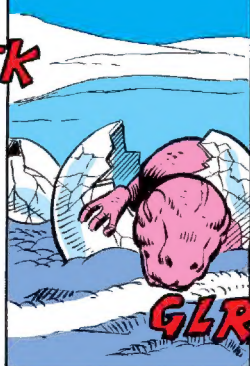
"A FIELD OF LARGE EGGS RECALLING THE VILLAGE OF PYRAMIDS."

THE AXIS HAS SHIFTED, MY SON, AS IT DID IN PRIMAL TIMES--

K-K-K-K

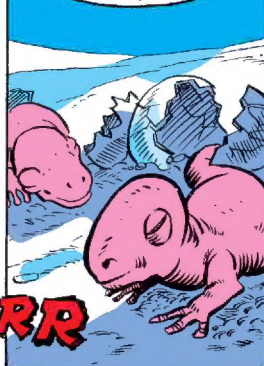


--BUT ETERNAL CHINA, AS EVER, SHALL ENDURE--



GLRRR

--INTO A NEW AGE ON EARTH. AN ERA OF NEW BIRTH RETURNING TO THE OLD--



--AND WE SHALL LEAD THIS NEW OLD CHINA, MY SON.

WE... MY FATHER?







YEAH, CHI,
YOU WOKE
UP JUST IN
TIME.

WE'RE
SLIDING DOWN
FOR THE
LANDING
RIGHT NOW.



FEELING
ANY BETTER
YET?

NO...



... BUT I THINK
I MAY HAVE A
LITTLE MORE
CONTROL...

... OVER
MY
MIND...

"... WHEN I AM NOT
SLEEPING, AT LEAST.

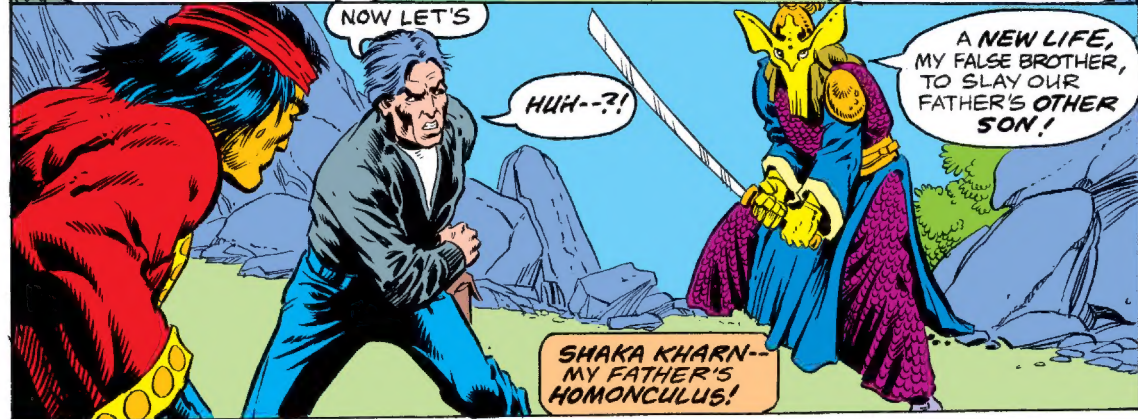


KNOW WHAT YOU **MEAN**--I WENT THROUGH
THAT STAGE LAST NIGHT JUST BEFORE WE
LEFT, AND SINCE **I** WAS DRUGGED SOME
SIX HOURS BEFORE **YOU**, YOU SHOULD
BE APPROACHING SANITY IN ANOTHER
FEW HOURS.

RESTON, I... THERE ARE
STILL PARTS OF TIME I CAN-
NOT **REMEMBER**. YOU SAY
WE LEFT **LONDON** LAST
NIGHT, BUT I... WHERE
DID WE GET
THIS **CRAFT**?

BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S TIME TO
SEE IF WE CAN'T SNEAK INTO
VICTOR VON DOOM'S CASTLE
AND GET TO THE **BOTTOM**
OF THIS CRAZY CAPER.

WE MAY'VE **QUIT MI-6**,
CHI, BUT **NAYLAND SMITH**
STILL PULLS A FEW
LONG STRINGS.



NOW LET'S

HUH--?!

A **NEW LIFE**,
MY FALSE BROTHER,
TO SLAY OUR
FATHER'S **OTHER**
SON!

SHAKA KHARN--
MY FATHER'S
HOMONCULUS!



"BUT HOW,
WHEN I HAVE--

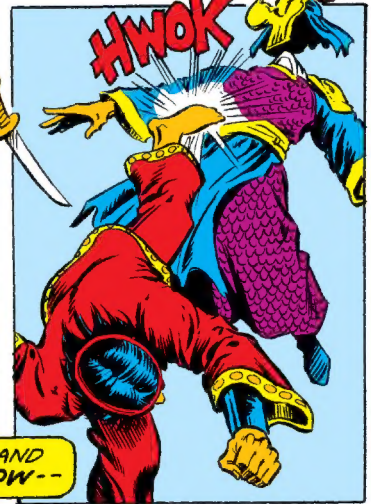
"YES, OF COURSE--IF HE'S ALREADY
DEAD, HE MUST BE A **ROBOT**...



"... BUT, HOW
DANGEROUS?

NO,
RESTON!!

GET
BACK
BEFORE--



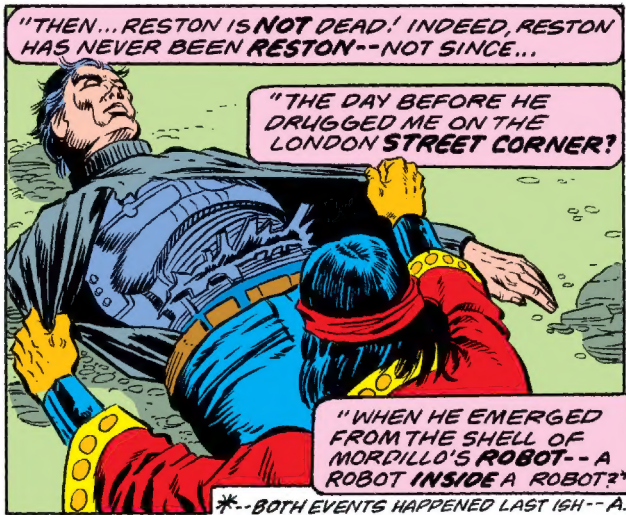


"SO...



"...COLD?"

"SO QUICKLY--?"



"THEN... RESTON IS **NOT DEAD!** INDEED, RESTON HAS NEVER BEEN **RESTON**--NOT SINCE...

"THE DAY BEFORE HE DRUGGED ME ON THE LONDON STREET CORNER?"

"WHEN HE EMERGED FROM THE SHELL OF MORDILLO'S **ROBOT**-- A **ROBOT INSIDE A ROBOT?**"

*--BOTH EVENTS HAPPENED LAST 16H--A.

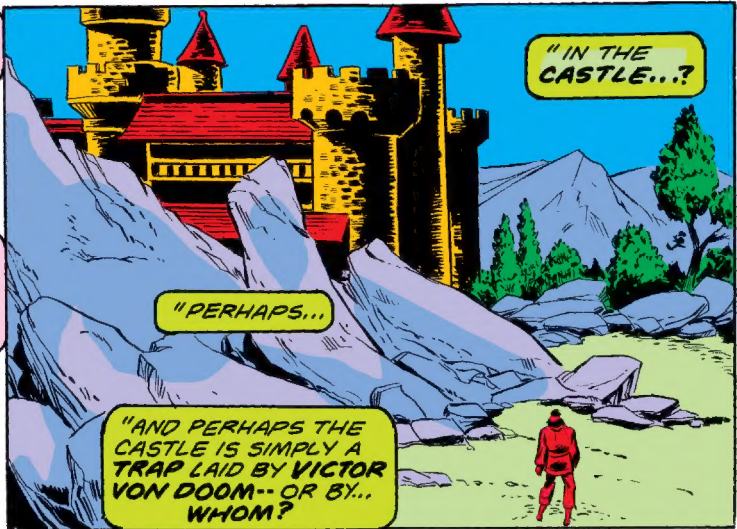


"OR SOMETIME JUST **LAST NIGHT**--WHEN WE SOMEHOW OBTAINED THE **CRAFT** AND FLEW HERE TO **LATVERIA**?"

"THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING..."

"...NOT UNTIL I FIND THE **REAL RESTON**."

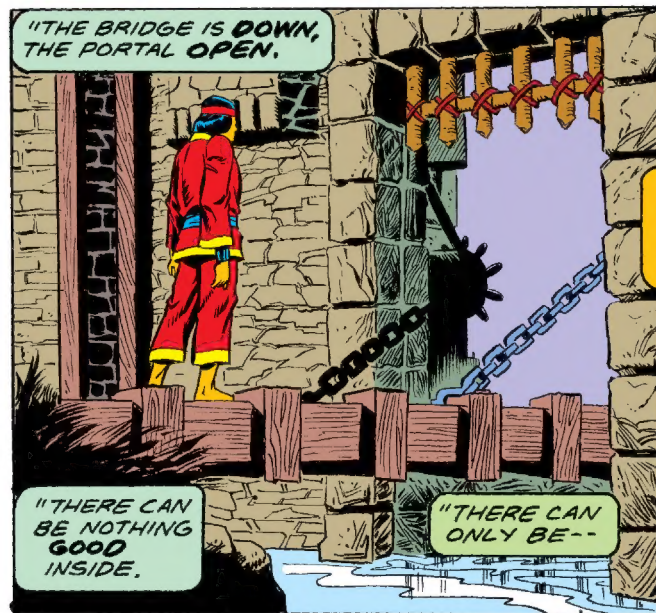
"BUT... WHERE IS THE **REAL RESTON**?"



"IN THE **CASTLE**...?"

"PERHAPS..."

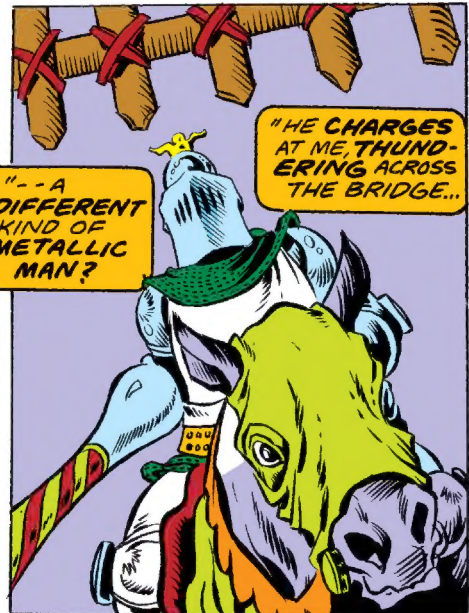
"AND PERHAPS THE CASTLE IS SIMPLY A TRAP LAID BY **VICTOR VON DOOM**--OR BY... WHOM?"



"THE BRIDGE IS **DOWN**, THE PORTAL **OPEN**."

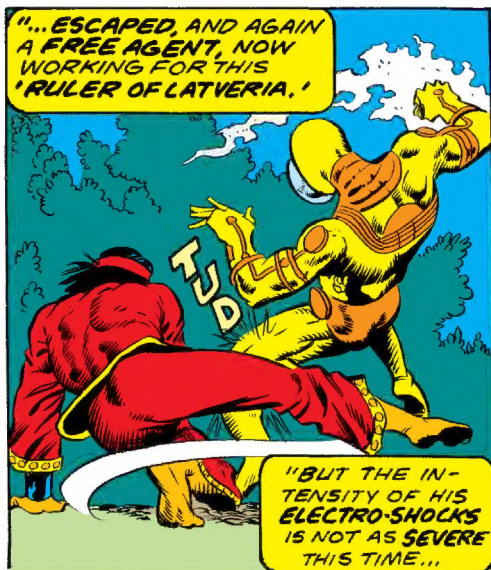
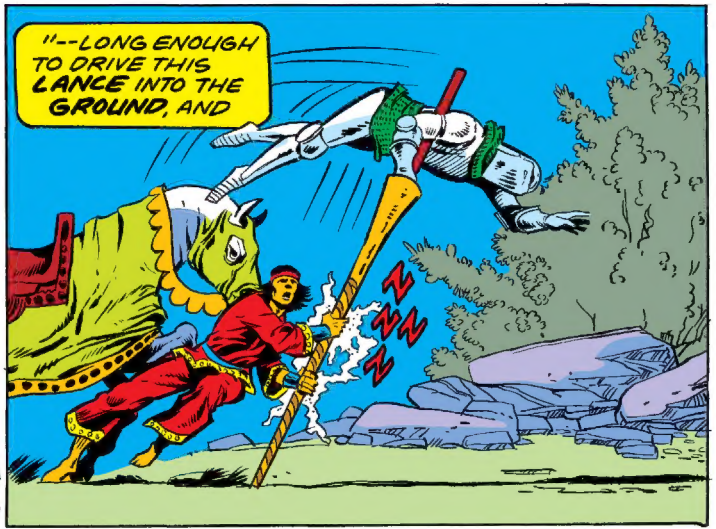
"THERE CAN BE NOTHING **GOOD** INSIDE."

"THERE CAN ONLY BE--"



"-- A DIFFERENT KIND OF **METALLIC MAN**?"

"HE CHARGES AT ME, **THUNDERING** ACROSS THE BRIDGE..."



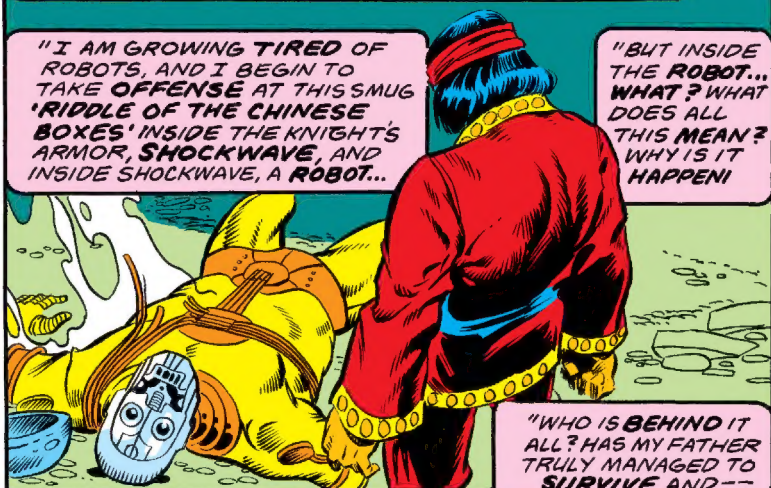
"WHATEVER THE REASON, SHOCKWAVE FALLS QUICKLY..."



"... ONLY TO REVEAL THE REASON: ANOTHER ROBOT."

"I AM GROWING TIRED OF ROBOTS, AND I BEGIN TO TAKE OFFENSE AT THIS SMUG 'RIDDLE OF THE CHINESE BOXES' INSIDE THE KNIGHT'S ARMOR, SHOCKWAVE, AND INSIDE SHOCKWAVE, A ROBOT..."

"BUT INSIDE THE ROBOT... WHAT? WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN? WHY IS IT HAPPENING?"



"WHO IS BEHIND IT ALL? HAS MY FATHER TRULY MANAGED TO SURVIVE AND--"

"NO SENSE DWELLING ON GUESSES."



"BETTER TO CONFRONT CERTAINTY."

"SCUFFLING, THE GLOOM SPEAKS, DESPITE ITSELF."



"THEY--OR THEIR MASTERS?-- HAVE ANTICIPATE THE FAILURE OF THE SHOCK-WAVE KNIGHT."

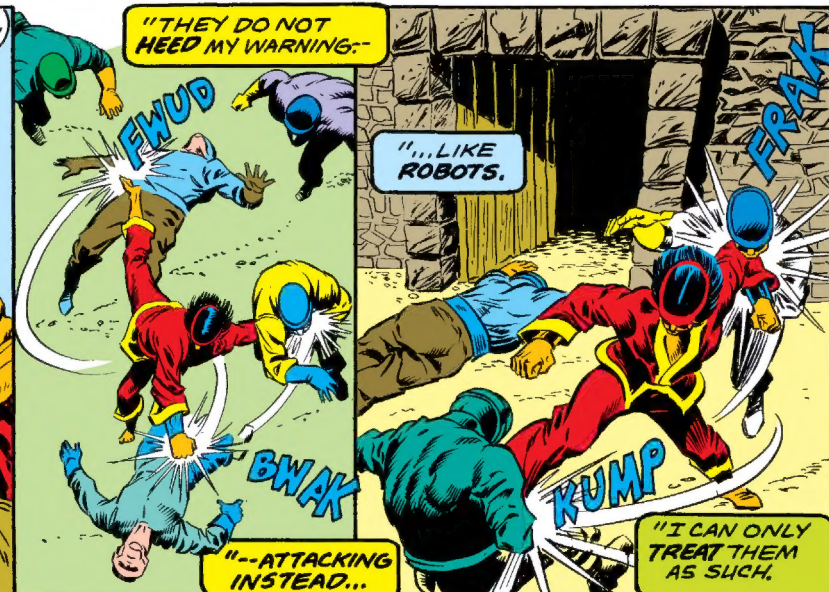
"ROBOTS ANTICIPATE NOTHING--"

"--BUT MY PATIENCE IS GONE."

"MOVE AWAY FROM ME, --OR I WILL ASSUME YOU ARE LIFELESS, AND REFUSE TO WORRY ABOUT SLAYING YOU."



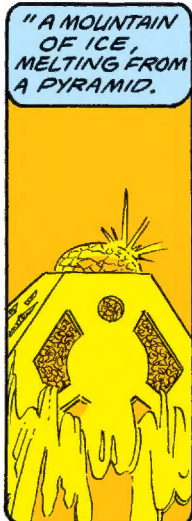
"THEY DO NOT HEED MY WARNING--"



"...LIKE ROBOTS."

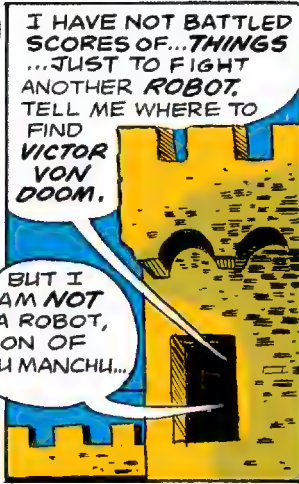
"--ATTACKING INSTEAD..."

"I CAN ONLY TREAT THEM AS SUCH."





YOU DO NOT **REMEMBER** ME, SON OF FU MANCHU? YOU DO NOT REMEMBER **SHADOW-STALKER?**



I HAVE NOT BATTLED SCORES OF...**THINGS** ...JUST TO FIGHT ANOTHER **ROBOT**. TELL ME WHERE TO FIND **VICTOR VON DOOM**.

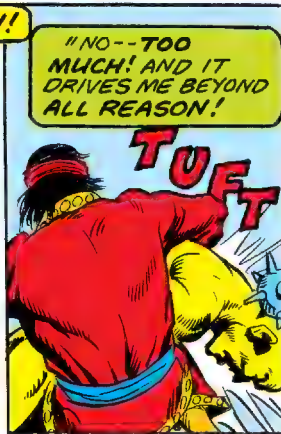
BUT I AM **NOT** A **ROBOT**, SON OF FU MANCHU...



I AM THE **EMISSARY** OF YOUR **DEATH!**



"**ENOUGH!**"



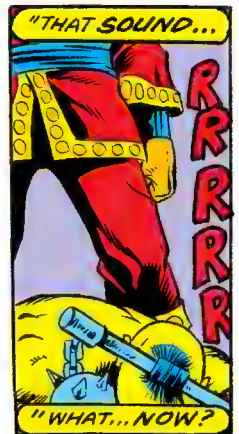
"NO--**TOO MUCH!** AND IT DRIVES ME BEYOND ALL REASON!"

TUFT



"I AM... **BERSERK!!**"

KUNCH



"**THAT SOUND...**"

"**WHAT... NOW?**"



"**THE ENTIRE WALL... SLIDING BACK-- AND...**"

HAHAH!!

CHECKMATE, SHANG-CHI!!

DR. DOOM HAS JUST WON THE **MATCH**. EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE TAKEN MY **KING-- NO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TAKEN MY KING-- TAKEN HIS LIFE!!**

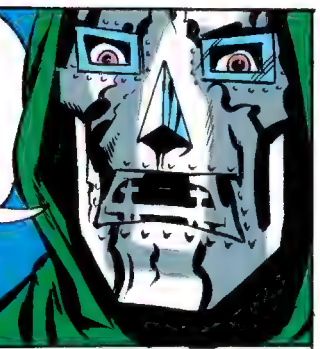
HIS... LIFE?



YES--CAN'T YOU GUESS?! AFTER ALL YOU'VE EXPERIENCED, ALL THE TWISTING PATHS OF DECEPTION, WHICH HAVE LED YOU HERE TO MY KEEP AND TO FINAL DEFEAT?!

I HAVE **OUTWITTED** YOU, FORCED YOU TO TAKE A **HUMAN LIFE**, THINKING IT WAS NO MORE THAN AN **ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT** SET INTO MOTION ON A **CONTRIVED BATTLEFIELD**, A MERE **PAWN ON A CHESS-BOARD!**

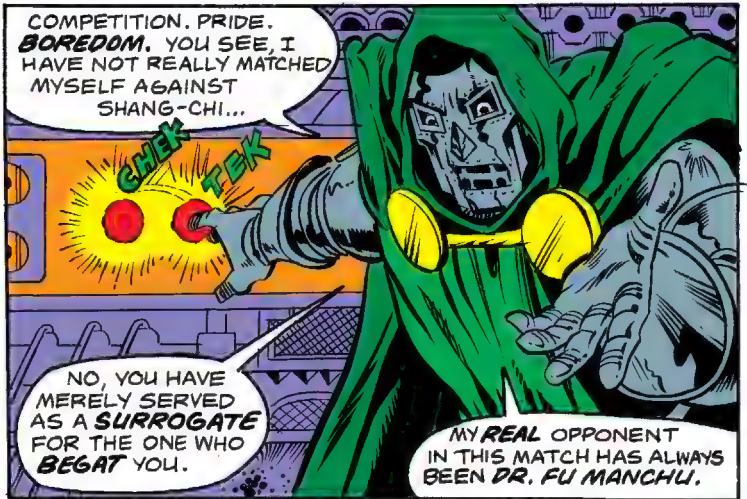
BUT **SHADOW-STALKER WAS NOT A ROBOT!** HE WAS **ALIVE-- AND YOU, SHANG-CHI, HAVE JUST COMMITTED MURDER!**





HE WAS--
ALIVE?!

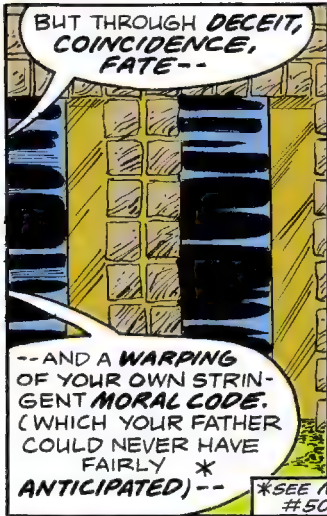
THIS WAS ALL
A...A... **GAME?!**
BUT... **WHY--?!**



COMPETITION. PRIDE.
BOREDOM. YOU SEE, I
HAVE NOT REALLY MATCHED
MYSELF AGAINST
SHANG-CHI...

NO, YOU HAVE
MERELY SERVED
AS A **SURROGATE**
FOR THE ONE WHO
BEGAT YOU.

MY **REAL** OPPONENT
IN THIS MATCH HAS ALWAYS
BEEN **DR. FU MANCHU.**



BUT THROUGH **DECEIT,**
COINCIDENCE,
FATE--

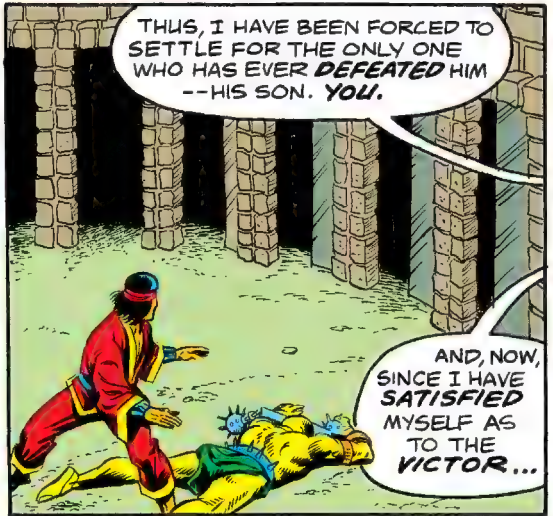
--AND A **WARPING**
OF YOUR OWN STRIN-
GENT **MORAL CODE.**
(WHICH YOUR FATHER
COULD NEVER HAVE
FAIRLY *
ANTICIPATED) --

*SEE **MOKE**
#50--ARCH.



--FU MANCHU IS
NO LONGER
AVAILABLE. A
PITY SINCE I
HAVE ALWAYS
WONDERED HOW
I WOULD FARE
AGAINST HIM.

"--?"



THUS, I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO
SETTLE FOR THE ONLY ONE
WHO HAS EVER **DEFEATED** HIM
--HIS SON. **YOU.**

AND, NOW,
SINCE I HAVE
SATISFIED
MYSELF AS
TO THE
VICTOR...

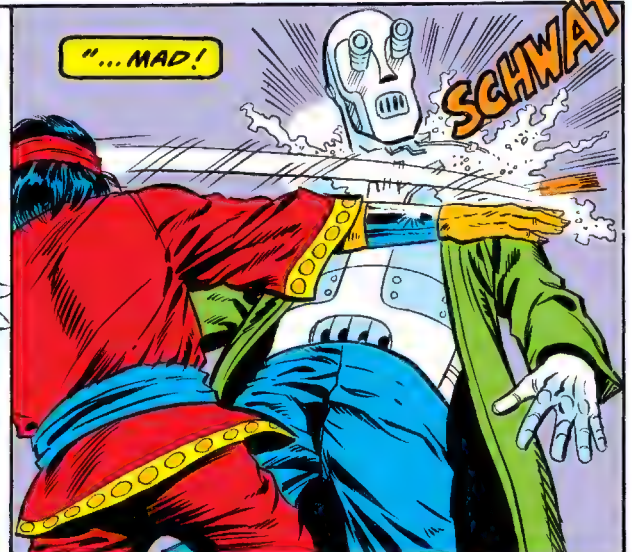
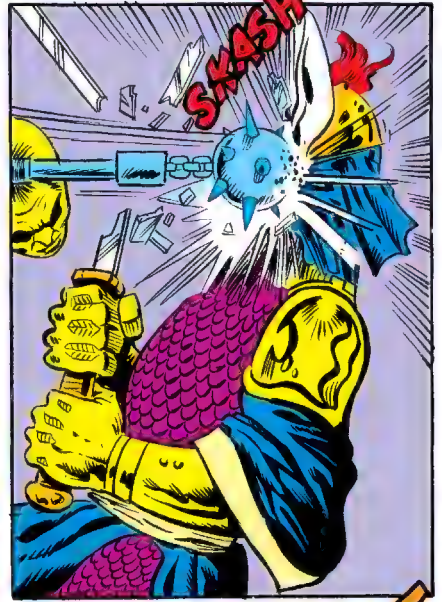
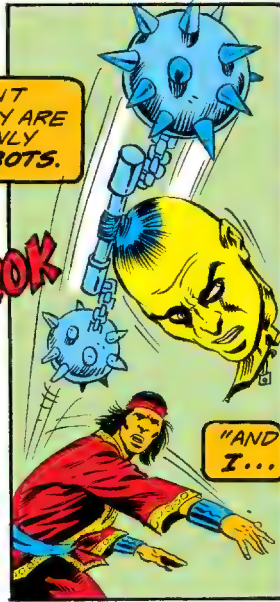
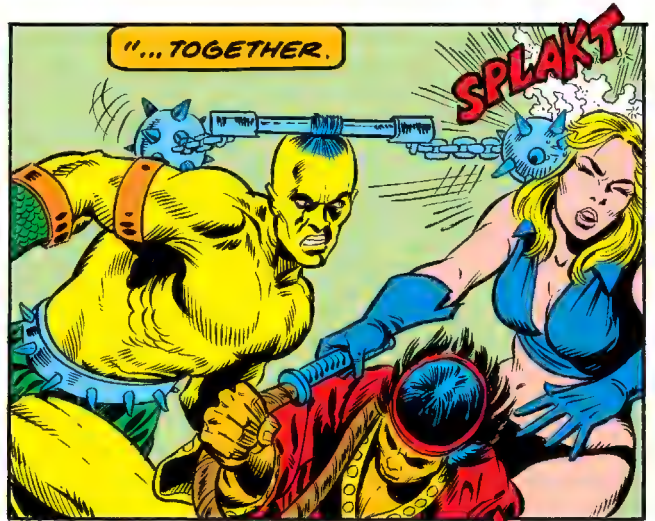
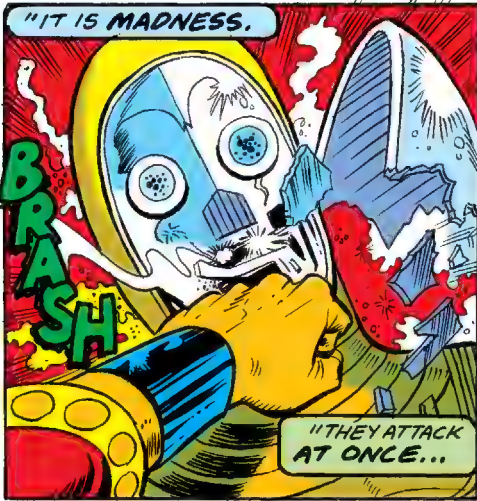


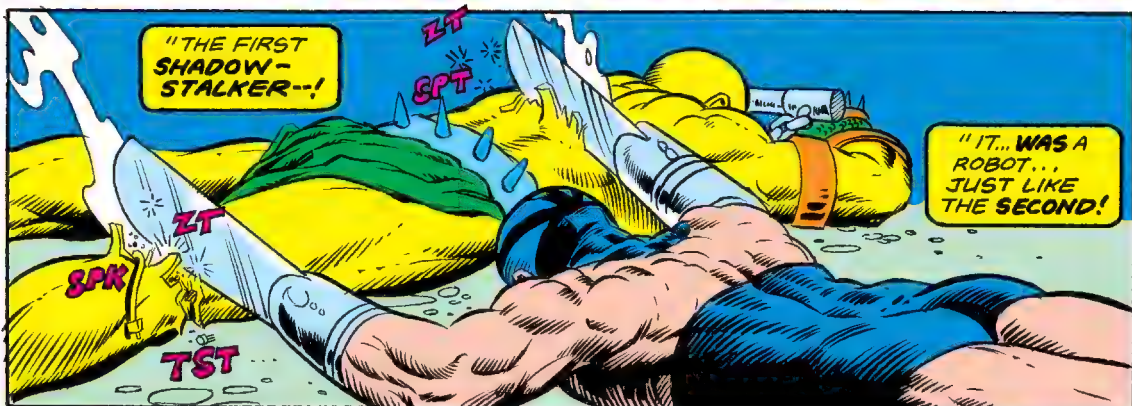
"THEY STEP FROM THE
DOORWAYS, ALL OF THEM,
MY **GREATEST** FOES
LIKE **WRAITHS**
FROM THE PAST.

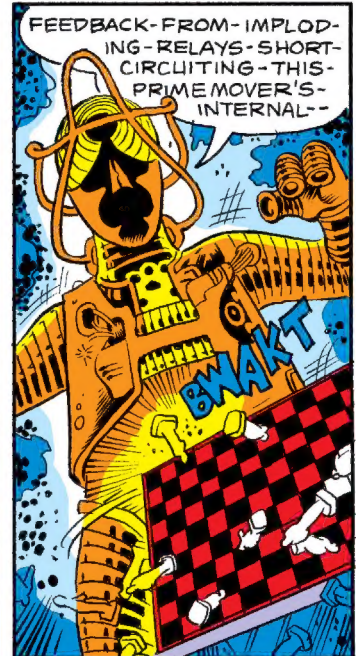
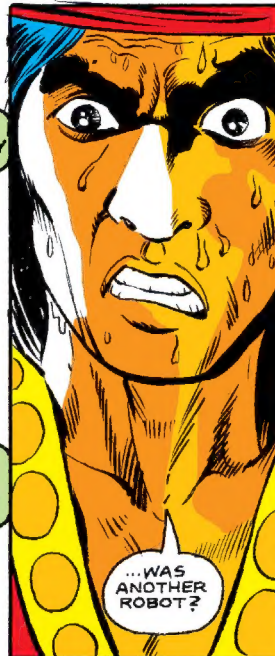
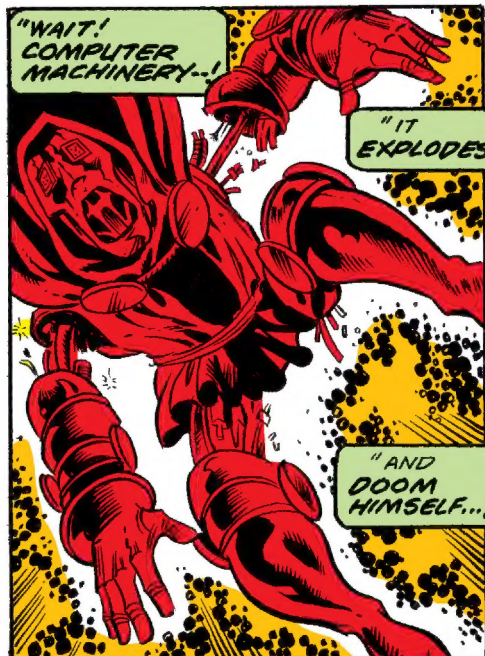
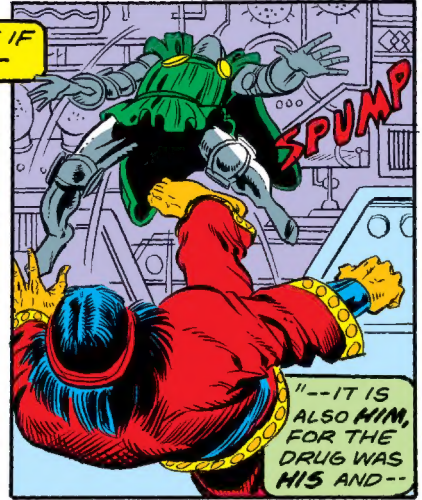
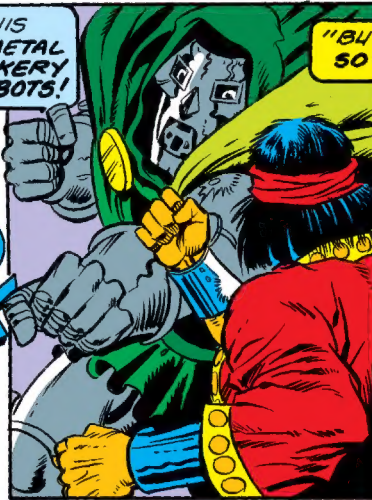
IT IS TIME TO CLEAR THE
BOARD OF **UNFINISHED**
GAMBITS, AND PUT THE
REMAINING PIECES...
AWAY.

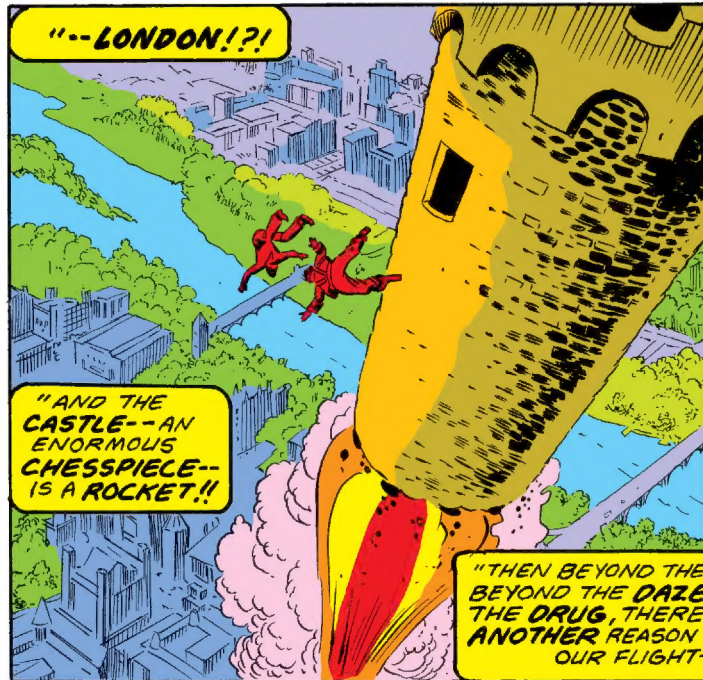
THESE ARE MY **RESERVE** PIECES.
YOU SEE, MY SENSE OF FAIRPLAY
EXTENDS ONLY TO THE **LIMITS**
OF THE MATCH--

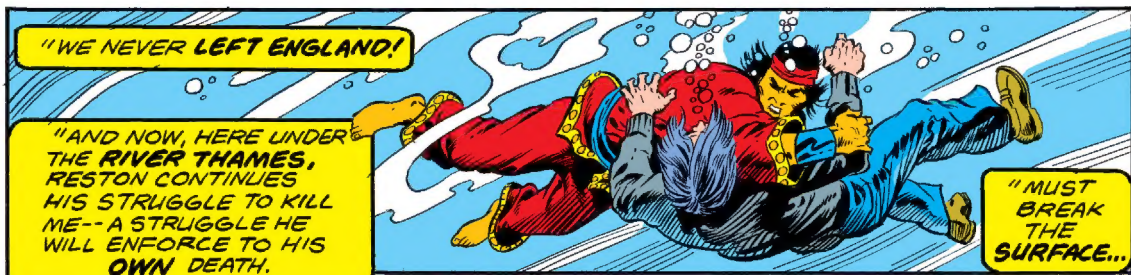
AND NOW THAT THE
GAME HAS **CONCLUDED,**
I HAVE NO QUALMS WHAT-
SOEVER ABOUT MULTIPLYING
THE ODDS...IN MY FAVOR.











"WE NEVER LEFT ENGLAND!"

"AND NOW, HERE UNDER THE RIVER THAMES, RESTON CONTINUES HIS STRUGGLE TO KILL ME-- A STRUGGLE HE WILL ENFORCE TO HIS OWN DEATH."

"MUST BREAK THE SURFACE..."



"...GRASP OUR ONLY HOPE..."

RESTON--LEIKO IS HERE --LEIKO!!

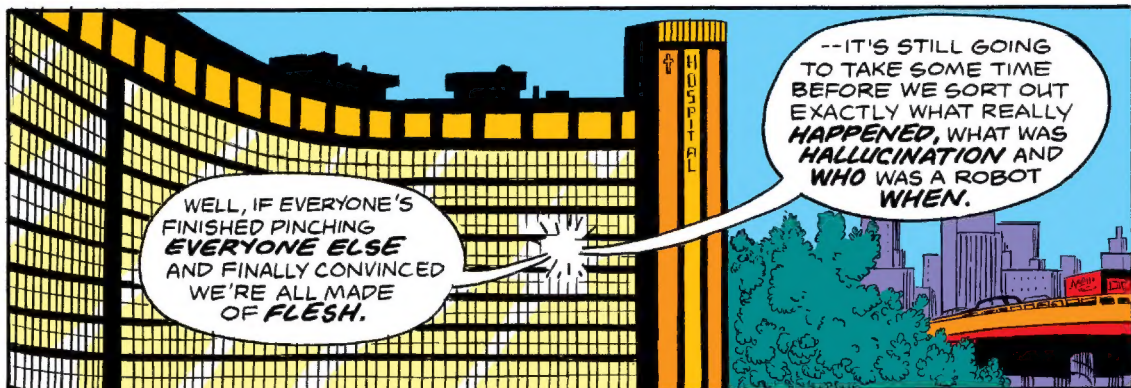


LEIKO?



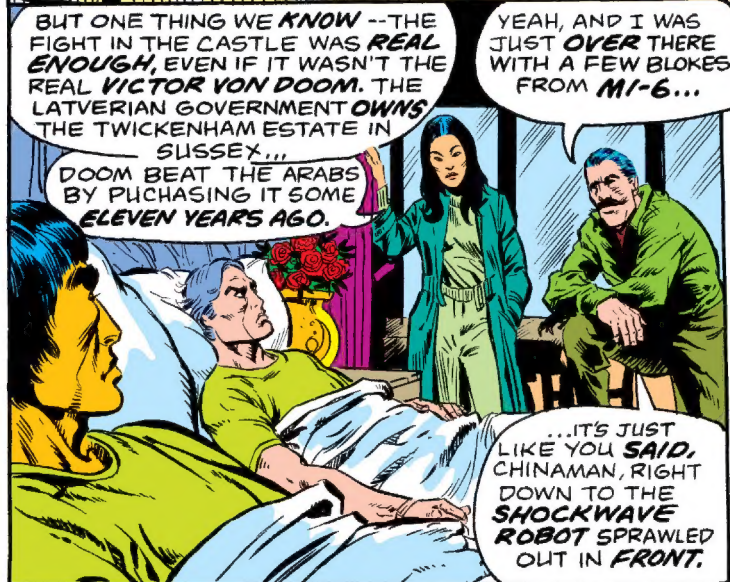
"IT WORKED."

"AND IT IS OVER... FINALLY OVER."



WELL, IF EVERYONE'S FINISHED PINCHING EVERYONE ELSE AND FINALLY CONVINCED WE'RE ALL MADE OF FLESH.

--IT'S STILL GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE WE SORT OUT EXACTLY WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, WHAT WAS HALLUCINATION AND WHO WAS A ROBOT WHEN.



BUT ONE THING WE KNOW --THE FIGHT IN THE CASTLE WAS REAL ENOUGH, EVEN IF IT WASN'T THE REAL VICTOR VON DOOM. THE LATVERIAN GOVERNMENT OWNS THE TWICKENHAM ESTATE IN SUSSEX...

DOOM BEAT THE ARABS BY PURCHASING IT SOME ELEVEN YEARS AGO.

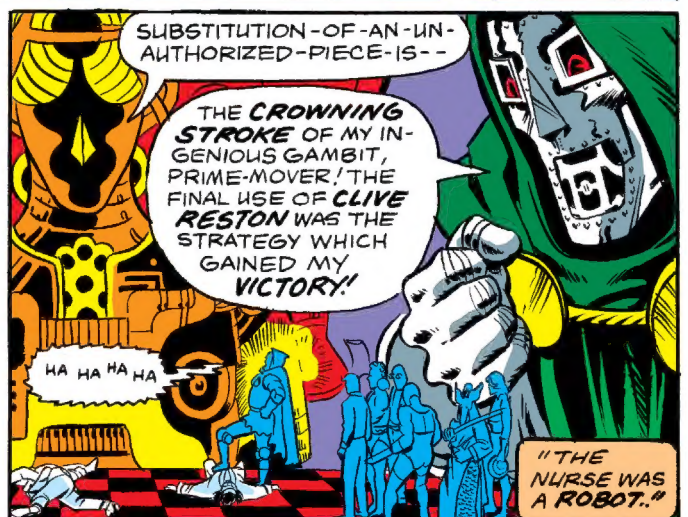
YEAH, AND I WAS JUST OVER THERE WITH A FEW BLOKES FROM MI-6...

...IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, CHINAMAN, RIGHT DOWN TO THE SHOCKWAVE ROBOT SPRAWLED OUT IN FRONT.



DOOM'S SOLDIER BOYS WERE LONG GONE, THOUGH, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE TOWER-ROCKET-- PROBABLY ON ITS WAY BACK TO LATVERIA BY NOW.

AND IT CAN STAY THERE. I DON'T FANCY ANOTHER TANGLE WITH THAT BLOODY LUNATIC. BUT AT LEAST THE DRUGS SEEM TO BE WEARING OFF-- HOW ABOUT YOU, CHI?



NEXT ISSUE: THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW MARTIAL ARTS VILLAIN, IN-- **GLASS ORCHIDS**